

MONROE COUNTY

Honorable William J. Causey, Jr.

Monroe County Courthouse
Court House Square
Monroeville, AL 36461
(251) 743-4381

Barber Turner
Phil Sanchez
DeWayne Beesley
Robert Will
Barbara McMillan
Donna Wasden
Otha Lee Biggs
Jim Brooks

Tammy Skipper
Charlie McCowey Jr.
Cynthia F. Frear
Jeanne Sewell
Kenneth V. Smith
Bruce Shue
Gerrie McMillian
Marsha Burt

Prissy Manning
Tommy Chapman
Jacqueline Winters
Deidre Munnerlyn
Tom Tate
George Elbucht
Laura Grantham
Dennis Mixion



PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Prevalence of drugs/child abuse & neglect
2. Sexually transmitted diseases/teen pregnancy
3. Parent involvement and skills

Issues

Issues are the primary concerns or problems facing children in the county

Health - Children's (0 - 19) physical and mental well-being in the county.

Reduce the risk of sexually risky behavior among youth

Policy Council Action Steps:

- educate youth about the ways STD's are transmitted by providing an in-school program with the health department as the information disseminator
- secure funding for parent training on how to communicate with their children about sex, STD's, and abstinence
- partner with local churches to provide behavior modification programs to target abstinence base programs

Reduce the rate of teenage pregnancy

Policy Council Action Steps:

- apply for grants to target unwed teen pregnancy for males and females
- partner with local churches to provide a teen pregnancy prevention program
- partner with the health department to provide education about teen pregnancy

Substance Abuse and Health Disparity among youth (i.e. crystal methadone, obesity, diabetes)

Policy Council Action Steps:

- partner with the health department to conduct community health fairs
- partner with the mental health and the health department to provide in school substance abuse prevention and health education/nutrition classes and/or health fair

- secure funding to assist with information dissemination of health education to youth at school, at church, and/or in the community

Safety - Children live free of abuse, neglect, crime, and drugs.

Educate the community about the safety hazardous associated with substance abuse (esp. toxic crystal methadone)

Policy Council Action Steps:

- secure grants to provide education about the risk of substance abuse
- partner with the local law enforcement officials to conduct substance classes to educate youth about the danger associated with the use of drugs
- partner with the local law enforcement to provide high school DARE mentors to elementary students

Reduce the risk of children being abused and neglected

Policy Council Action Steps:

- develop a working partnership with the coordinator of homeless children and youth organization
- partner with DHR to train counselors and teachers to recognize the symptoms of child abuse/neglect and how to report abuse
- train teachers how to handle a child who is a victim of child abuse/neglect in the classroom and the sensitivity needed to work with the child

Education - Children learn the skills necessary to become productive citizens.

Difficulty with students passing the Alabama high school graduation exam

Policy Council Action Steps:

- develop after school tutoring preparatory program
- develop in-school preparatory program for identified students throughout the school year
- secure funding for additional teachers to conduct the preparatory program

Early Care and

Education - Children (0 – 5) are provided opportunities to fully develop emotionally, socially, physically, and cognitively and are ready to succeed.

Need to establish a Pre-K readiness program that is state funded

Policy Council Action Steps:

- secure state funding for a pre-k program for schools that serve at-risk children
- CPC will assist with writing grants for the development of the pre-k program
- solicit volunteers to work with the pre-k staff when obtained

Economic Security

- Children grow up in a financially stable home where the child's basic needs can be met.

Economic development

Policy Council Action Steps:

- secure funding to provide summer jobs for youth
- provide on the job readiness training for unemployed parents
- strategic planning to bring more business into the county

Increase community knowledge of entrepreneurs

Policy Council Action Steps:

- seek training from the National Federation of Independent Business
- partner with the chamber of commerce to initiate a small business conference
- partner with local banks to provide a guide/education on how to apply for business loans

Parent Involvement and Skills

- Parents and guardians participation and effectiveness in fostering an environment for children to become mature, responsible and independent adults.

Provide-parenting programs to assist single parents with various needs

Policy Council Action Steps:

- secure funding to provide constant parenting skill classes
- provide parenting classes to children of incarcerated parents
- provide various parenting classes that will partner with the churches to serve the parents and children

Increase parental involvement with the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) at school

Policy Council Action Steps:

- introduce local ministers to PTO and provide skill training activities for their congregation
- provide a community information session at all local churches with a school official co-chairing the session

Policy Recommendation

1. Recommend legislature provide additional funding for state Pre-K programs at schools with at risk youth.
2. Recommend more funding for faith-based initiatives.

